



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

**Frank J. Magill,
United States Attorney**

David Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist
(612) 664-5684; cell: (612) 730-2251

News Release

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Brooklyn Park man pleads guilty to filing a false claim

A 44-year-old Brooklyn Park man pleaded guilty today in federal court to filing a false tax claim against the United States.

Ellis Alance Banks pleaded guilty to one count of filing a false tax claim. His plea was entered in St. Paul before U.S. District Court Judge Richard Kyle. Banks was indicted on April 24.

According to Banks's plea agreement, he admitted to knowingly making false claims on Jan. 14, 2005. Banks prepared and presented a U.S. Individual Income Tax Return in the name of an adult that claimed a false refund on taxes in the amount of \$4,563.

Banks also admitted he knowingly submitted additional similar false claims for tax years 2005-2008 resulting in \$375,000 in losses to the U.S.

Banks faces a potential maximum penalty of five years in prison. Judge Kyle will determine Banks's sentence at a future date. This case is the result of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Genrich.